Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus Infections

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Staphylococcus aureus

- Very common – carried by 25-30% of people
- Carried on skin or in nose
- Usually does not cause illness
- Infections usually occur as superficial skin pimples or boils
- Rarely can cause blood infection bone infections or lung infection
  - can be very serious

Methicillin-resistant S aureus (MRSA)

- Strain of S aureus which is resistant to penicillins
- Uncommon – carried by 1% of people
- Carried on skin or in nose
- Usually does not cause illness
- If infections occur, may start as superficial skin pimples or boils – but have a tendency to invade deeper organ systems
- Can cause blood infections, bone infections or lung infections – usually very serious
- Can be difficult to treat

Risk Factors for MRSA

- Hospitalization
- Residence in a long-term care facility
- Use of invasive devices
  - Intravenous line, urinary catheter, dialysis, feeding tubes
- Recent or long term use of antibiotics
- Weakened immune system
- Living in crowded or unsanitary conditions
- Participation in contact sports

Treatment of MRSA

- Incision and drainage of abscess
- Hot compresses, elevation
- Culture and treatment based on sensitivity
- Vancomycin, doxycycline, Septra®

Prevention of MRSA

- Good hygiene – hand washing
- Regularly clean living areas
- Cover cuts and abrasions with bandage
- Do not share personal items – towels, razors
- Clean exposed surfaces in gym, lockers
- Take entire dose of antibiotics and only those antibiotics prescribed by a physician

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Staph and MRSA: *What is it?*

- What is Staphylococcus aureus or "staph"?
- What is MRSA?
- Who gets staph infections?
- Who is more likely to get MRSA?
- How serious are staph infections?
- How are staph infections treated?
- How can staph infections be prevented?

Helpful Links

CDC
Staph and MRSA

Mayo Clinic
Staph
MRSA

Medline Plus (NIH)
Staph
MRSA

JAMA
MRSA

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